

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 and 10-15 are pending in the application. Claim 1 has been amended. Claims 10-15 are newly added. Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

An Appeal was filed on September 20, 2004 from the final rejection of claims 1-5 in the final Office Action dated May 20, 2004.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner extending a courtesy of a telephone interview on November 22, 2004 to consider a proposed Amendment as a good faith attempt to place the claims in condition for allowance. The Examiner acknowledged that the proposed Amendment overcomes the final rejection of the claims 1-5, but that a further search is needed.

This Amendment is essentially identical to the proposed Amendment considered during the interview including the arguments.

The Office Action rejects claims 1 and 4 under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,721,779 to Maffeis, hereafter Maffeis.

This rejection does not apply to independent claim 1 as amended. Amended claim 1 differs from Maffeis in several aspects. First, claim 1 recites an object server container that contains a plurality of server objects and a protocol adapter framework that comprises a plurality of protocol adapters. Maffeis does not disclose or teach a plurality of server objects and a plurality of protocol adapters. Maffeis discloses a proxy 1 that has a plurality of protocol adapters 1a-1g, but does not disclose or teach a plurality of server objects.

Second, amended claim 1 recites that the server objects relate to specific, respective object servers of the workstations. Maffeis does not disclose or teach that proxy 1 has a plurality of server objects that relate to specific, respective ones of object servers of the thin message clients 2, 2' and 2". In fact, Maffeis does not teach that any of the message clients 2, 2' or 2" has an object server.

Third, amended claim 1 recites that the protocol adapter framework responds to client requests in an arbitrary protocol received via the protocol adapters to derive therefrom method requests on an object residing within at least one of the object servers. Since Maffeis does not disclose or teach object servers, Maffeis cannot teach deriving from client requests method requests on an object residing in an object server.

The Examiner admits that Maffeis does not teach a protocol adapter that is "responsive to client requests in said arbitrary protocol to derive therefrom method requests on an object residing within an object server". The Examiner notes the passage at column 3, lines 10-12, which states:

"Pluggable protocol adapters allow the message proxy to send and receive messages to and from message clients using arbitrary wireless protocols. A protocol adapter embodies an existing transport protocol, such as GPRS or TCP/IP, and also provides additional features on top of the existing transport protocol. Examples of such additional features include data encryption and guaranteed delivery of messages."

The Examiner then contends, based on the above noted passage, that it would have been obvious to derive from client requests in an arbitrary protocol method requests on an object residing in an object server in order to provide the additional features noted in the passage.

This contention is traversed. Maffeis does not disclose or teach to invoke the additional features in response to requests received in an arbitrary protocol. Maffeis merely teaches that the additional features, such as data encryption and guaranteed delivery, are performed for the message traffic. Maffeis does not provide any suggestion or other evidence that proxy server 1 responds to requests from a client to invoke the additional features.

The Examiner's suggestion that it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, based on the above noted passage, to provide the claimed protocol adapter is improperly based on the hindsight of Applicants' disclosure. Such hindsight reconstruction of the art cannot be the basis of a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103. The prior art itself must suggest that modification or provide the reason or motivation for making such modification. In re Laskowski, 871 F.2d 115, 117, 10 USPQ 2d 1397, 1398-1399 (CAFC, 1989). "The invention must be viewed not after the blueprint has been drawn by the inventor, but as it would have been perceived in the state of the art that existed at the time the invention was made." Sensonics Inc. v. Aerosonic Corp. 38 USPQ 2d 1551, 1554 (CAFC, 1996), citing Interconnect Planning Corp. v. Feil, 774 F. 2d 1132, 1138, 227 USPQ 543, 547 (CAFC, 1985).

For the reasons set forth above, it is submitted that the rejection of claims 1 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) is erroneous and should be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejects claims 2, 3 and 5 under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as unpatentable over Maffeis in view of U.S Patent No. 6,014,694 to Aharoni et al., hereafter Aharoni.

This rejection is inapplicable to claims 2, 3 and 5 for the reason that Maffeis lacks elements recited in amended parent claim 1, as pointed out in the discussion of amended claim 1 above. Namely, Maffeis lacks both a plurality of protocol adapters and a plurality of server objects as recited in amended claim 1.

Maffeis also lacks that the server objects relate to specific, respective object servers of the workstations as recited in amended claim 1. Maffeis further lacks a protocol adapter framework that is “responds to client requests in said arbitrary protocol received via said protocol adapters to derive therefrom method requests on an object residing within at least one of said object servers”. Aharoni, which was cited as teaching a video server and video client, does not teach the element that Maffeis lacks. Accordingly, the conclusion of obviousness does not apply to claims 2, 3 and 5.

For the reasons set forth above, it is submitted that the rejection of claims 2, 3 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) is obviated by the amendment and should be withdrawn.

The Office Action cites a number of patents that were not applied in the rejections of the claims. These patents have been reviewed, but are believed to be inapplicable to the claims.

New claim 10 recites that the object server container provides services and that the server objects are operable to access the services. Maffeis does not teach server objects that access services offered by the object server container.

New claim 11 recites that “different ones of said server objects relate to specific, respective ones of said arbitrary protocols that are used by specific, respective object servers of said workstations to access corresponding ones of said server objects”. Maffeis does teach this relationship.

New claim 12 recites that the method requests are for the services. Maffeis does not teach server objects that access services offered by the object server container.

New claim 13 recites that the services run in a first protocol that differs from the arbitrary protocols. Support for this language is found at page 1, lines 7-9.

New claim 14 recites that the "protocol adapter framework processes an output generated by one of said object servers in response to a client request for transport to said requesting client according to a transport protocol expected by the requesting client". Maffeis does not teach a protocol framework that processes an output of the object servers as recited.

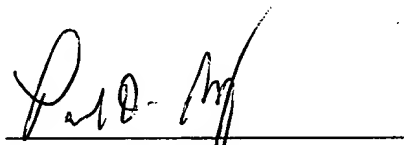
New claim 15 recites that the "transport protocol is selected from the group consisting of: an arbitrary protocol of the requesting client and a second protocol that differs from said arbitrary protocol of the requesting client". Maffeis does not teach the elements recited in independent claim 1 or intervening claim 14 as discussed above.

Accordingly, for the reasons set forth above, it is submitted that new claims 10-15 distinguish from the cited art and are, therefore, allowable.

It is respectfully requested for the reasons set forth above that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) be withdrawn, that claims 1-5 and 10-15 be allowed and that this application be passed to issue.

Respectfully Submitted,

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